Deceleration in the growth rate in Agriculture Sector

843. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any deceleration in the growth rate in agriculture sector during the Seventh Five Year Plan period as compared to the growth rate achieved during the previous plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any effective measures to increase the growth rate in agriculture sector during the current plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The growth rate of agriculture sector during the Sixth Plan works out to be very high with base year i.e. 1979-80 of the Sixth Plan which happened to be a severe drought year. During 1979-80; the agricultural value added registered a decline of 13.4 per cent over the year 1978-79. "With very low agricultural value added base in 1979-80, the growth rate of agriculture during the Sixth Plan works out to be 6.2 per cent per annum as compared to 3.6 per cent per annum in the 7th Plan. However, with 1978-79 as the base growth rate during the next six years including 5 years of the Sixth Plan works out to be only 2.9 per cent per annum.

(c) and (d) in order to increase the growth rate in agriculture, the Government have been implementing various crops oriented schemes viz. Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPBD), Special Food Production Programme (SFPP), for wheat, maize, millets and pulses, Mini-kits Scheme of wheat, maize and millets, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), National Pulses Development Project (NPDP). Expansion in irrigated area, increased used of chemical fertilizers and plant protection chemicals alongwith effective price and market support are some of the major programmes for accelerating the rate of growth in agriculture sector.

Growth in agriculture will receive high priority during the Eighth Plan. The details of measures, the programmes and the policies to be adopted, will be included in the Eighth Plan Document which is under preparation.

Route of Konkan Railway in the State of Goa

844. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are reconsidering the details about the route of Konkan Railway in State of Goa;

(b) what is the reaction of Goa Government jabout the demand for a change in route; and

(c) who are demanding the change in route$_s$ the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Realignment of a part of the Konkan Railway in Goa has been proposed by a section of the people. The matter is still under consideration.

Proposal to Connect Thiruvananthapuram-Punalur-Pamba Railway Line

845. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Win the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect Thiruvananthapuram-Punalur-Pamba railway line in order to facilitate the lakhs of pilgrims of Sabarimala in Kerala;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and